

WAIUKU MUSEUM SOCIETY INC.

13 KING STREET, WAIUKU

MUDDY WATERS BUSH TELEGRAPH

NOVEMBER 1984

MUSEUM "COME ALIVE" GALA DAY READY FOR ACTION

Help required for manning stalls and
supplying produce — read on for details

The biggest thing to happen on the Museum calendar for some time is the forthcoming Gala Day. It will be held in and adjacent to the Museum in King Street Waiuku on **SATURDAY 10th NOVEMBER 1984** and with the amount of items on the programme it looks set for a cracker day.

The whole week in Waiuku prior to the Gala Day will be busy — the Franklin Rose Society will have their Annual Show in the War Memorial Hall on Thursday and Friday, the Waiuku Businessmen's Association is having a Market Day on Friday, and the Lions Club of Waiuku are holding their District Convention on Saturday and Sunday, preceding with a street parade in Waiuku on Friday evening at 7 p.m.

Our Gala Day is on their programme to visit on Saturday morning.

PROGRAMME

- 10.30 a.m. — Maori Item by the Reretewhioi Marae Group along with a Maori Arts and Crafts Display.
- 10.45 a.m. — Horse Shoeing demonstration by Mr Earl Addlington.
- 11.00 a.m. — Waiuku Young Farmers Club demonstrate corn shelling, grit grinding, chaff cutting, cow milking using old Museum equipment.
- 11.30 a.m. — Waiuku Cosmopolitan Axemen's Club chopping and crosscut sawing demonstration.
- 12.00 a.m. — Mr Merlin Lever and his Cut Throat Shaving demonstration.
- 12.15 p.m. — Break Dancing Demonstration.
- 12.30 p.m. — Demonstration of cream separating by Mr Jack Harper.
- 12.30 p.m. — Arrival of the Waiuku Yacht Club's Optimist fleet.
- 1.15 p.m. — Horse and Harness parade.

- 1.15 p.m. — Vintage Car and Tractor parade.
- 1.30 p.m. — Senior Citizen's Choir singing old fashioned songs.
- 1.45 p.m. — Repeat demonstration of Young Farmers Club activities.
- 2.00 p.m. — Waiuku Theatre Group Mock Court hearing using the old jail and the bench from the old courthouse.

As well as this organised programme, there will be:

Organ and Piano playing throughout the day.
Flying Fox set up across the estuary
Sausage sizzle hot dog stall
Children's Treasure Block
Continuous Lunch Stall serving Devonshire teas, sandwiches and drinks
Mr Ray Williams' old fashioned hay stacker
Mr Alf Neary's old Viking boat
Mrs Pots Ironing Demonstrations
Hand and Treadle sewing machines
Souvenir and Book Stall
Produce and cooking stall
Phonograph display by Mr Jim Snedden
Herb Display
Spinning and Weaving Displays
Embroidery, patchwork quilt and lacemaking display
Mr Con Egan and his Firearms display
Waiuku Black Powder Club display
Kauri Gum work and display by Mrs Bradley of Glenbrook
Mr Norman Douglas and his Shell Display
Franklin Historical Society display
Museum's Miscellaneous Pot Pourri Book compiled by Mrs Jean Hamilton.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Seldom before have we had to make an appeal to members as we do now for you to supply one item of cooking and one item of produce to sell on Gala Day in a stall to help raise money for the Museum's new building.

Can you please help? Goods may be taken to Bill Deed at 9 Martyn Street, Waiuku prior to the 10th November, or brought to the Gala Day at 9 a.m.

We would also appreciate any people who may be able to help in stalls. Please contact Jack Lawrence phone 58-409.

OBITUARY

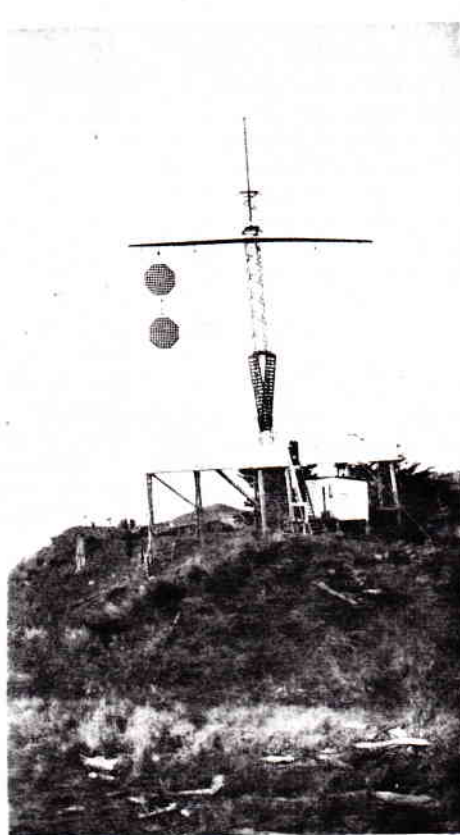
Mr Vernon Duff

Few members may be aware of the tremendous support that Mr Vernon Duff has given to our Museum.

His advice was often sort on a variety of matters: he mended articles, created new pieces, constructed barriers and assisted with restoration. He was always available to discuss problems with.

Throughout the Museum and the Hartmann House, we are aware of the things that were quietly prduced from his hands and in his home workshop, making life so much easier for Museum progress. We are very grateful for his time and the support he gave so willingly.

To his family we extend our deep sympathy in the passing of such a kindly dedicated helper.



The Manukau Signal Station mast when it was newly completed in June 1927. An article on the Signal Station is on the back page of the 'Telegraph.'

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LD PHOTOGRAPHS FOR

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The Museum has recently received an offer of a frogman outfit which is claimed to be the first ever such suit in Waiuku. It was owned by Mr Harold Chapman who has also written the following article.

Save our remaining West

by Harold Chapman

Since Waiuku is becoming more industrialised and its population steadily on the increase, it is high time that we, who share the pride in our district took a stand against the invasion of industrialisation which could eventually transform our rural area from Maioiro to the Manukau Heads into another massive urban sprall.

The west of our borough has many landmarks of both geological and of pre-European Maori occupation as well as early pioneering by Waiuku's settlers. So to lose such a heritage to modern technology and commerce, it would take away the pride of us all of whom cherish and withhold their pride and dignity.

Three contingents of troops left our district at various times of aggression which we honour today. The went to fight in the Boer War, the Great War of 1914-18, and World War 2. These young men and those who did service for their country at home during these times inherited a lot of the land that had been started to be broken in by their descendants. Today, those farmers and their wives who work and stand for the prosperity of their land which is still years after their forebears, the pride of the west.

Not only has our rural district the potentiality of becoming a future tourist attraction, but it is today, and hopefully shall remain an industry that we shall rely on for our future products. The west, which our servicemen and women served for in times of aggression, is our national heritage. Its future depends on us all for its perpetual existence.



THANK YOU

Thanks is due to the person who anonymously donated a big green planter which is now in the Museum adorning a large pot plant.

Charles Thomas Barriball

(1845-1917)

Charles and Ann Barriball, with two sons and one daughter, arrived in Auckland on the "Westminster" early in 1843, and settled on a farm in Eden-Epsom district, where Charles Thomas was born in 1845.

About 1860 the family moved to Waiuku, and took up land (Eden Hill). At that time the country was mostly bush, and all timber for buildings had to be pit sawn — shingles for the roof were hand split. Roads were merely tracks, and public transport unknown.

In 1872 Charles married Eliza Jane Hodge, whose parents were also pioneers, and settled on a farm in what was then Waitangi, now Pukeoware, and successfully farmed this land, and brought up a family of three sons and seven daughters.

Mr Barriball belonged to the old Waikato Militia, and was later sergeant major in Waiuku Cavalry and held a long service medal.

From an early age he took a great interest in public affairs, and was member of the Waiuku Road Board for over 25 years, twenty years of which he was chairman.

He was also a member of the Waiuku School Committee for 30 years, and chairman for most of the time. He also represented the West Ward of the Auckland Education Board for ten years. This necessitated a trip to Auckland every fortnight and he drove a horse and buggy to Pukekohe and thence by train.

He was an active trustee of the Methodist Church and member of the Quarterly Board and Choir for many years. He was well-known as a breeder of Lincoln sheep and exhibitor and prize winner at Auckland, Franklin and Waikato Shows, and won many championships, trophies and silver cups. His services were often requested as judge in sheep and cattle sections of other shows. For three years successively, he was President of the Franklin A. & P. association.

He was keenly interested in sport, especially cricket and tennis and had the first lawn tennis courts in the district at his home.

For many years he was a Justice of the Peace. Wheat, oats and barley were grown on his farm, and his own wheat was ground at the flour mill at Waitangi Falls.

Charles Thomas Barriball died in 1917.

MANUKAU HARBOUR BAR

Work of Signal Station

IMPORTANT PART IN ONEHUNGA TRADE

Since the day 130 years ago when the Rev. Samuel Marsden first glimpsed the white-flecked entrance to the Manukau Harbour and guessed at the existence of a bar, many ships have passed through the channel in the shifting sands. A signal and pilot station had been established on Paratutai Island, which is connected to the north head by a causeway, as early as 1853 according to an Admiralty chart. Today the signal station on the south head is the guide for vessels passing through the channel and plays an important part in the carriage of cargo to and from the port of Onehunga.

Although the port is now less active than it was even 50 years ago thousands of tons of cargo are still handled each month on the wharf, and coastal vessels regularly use the harbour. The days when passenger steamers left daily for New Plymouth to connect with the Wellington train are long since passed but there is still a fair volume of traffic to be directed by the signal station.

Last Relieving Term

Men who control the signal stations along the coast must have "salt in their blood" and an extensive background of maritime experience. After more than 35 years as permanent and relieving signalman at the Manukau Heads, Mr W. H. Champion, former sailor and one-time lighthousekeeper, is well qualified in this respect. Mr Champion is spending his last relieving term at the station while the permanent signalman, Mr G. Freegard, is on annual leave. He will then retire and settle on Norfolk Island.

Mr Champion comes from a seafaring family. His brother is Captain A. R. Champion, who commanded the Pamir on her first few voyages under the New Zealand flag, and was recently appointed harbourmaster at Lyttelton. His grand-father, Mr William Champion, was one of the first signalmen on Paratutai when the station was marked only by a flag-staff or signalling mast.

Loss of the Orpheus

Before 1860 a semaphore station had been proposed for the north head. However, after the Waikato War the flag-staff was moved from Paratutai to the south head and the signal station was later established there. The Paratutai flag-staff was chopped down by a Maori raiding party during the war and this action may have determined its removal to the south head.

New Zealand's most disastrous wreck occurred on the Manukau Harbour bar on 7th February 1863. H.M.S. Orpheus, a vessel of 21 guns, under the command of Commodore Burnett, grounded on the south spit of the bar and was broken up by the heavy sea running at the time. Three boats were launched but one was stove-in, and out of a total complement of 256 only 71 were saved. Several other ships have been stranded on the bar but all have been floated off on the high tide.

The Manukau Harbour was controlled by the Marine Department until 1913 when it came under the jurisdiction of the Auckland Harbour Board. Mr Champion had been lighthousekeeper on both the east coast and the west coast before he was appointed signalman at the Manukau Heads in 1910. He had also tended the lighthouse which is a few hundred yards below the harbour entrance. This lighthouse is now automatic and is supervised by Mr N. Harvey, who also farms the surrounding property.

In his 35 years as signalman Mr Champion has witnessed only one near disaster. Sixteen years ago the Kittawa ran on to the sandbank in thick fog. However, no damage was done and the ship managed to break free with a spring tide.

The old semaphore tower was a wooden structure. It was pulled down in 1927 and a new steel tower was erected on a site about 50 yards further back. There have been several slips near the tower and it may shortly be shifted to a firmer situation on the original site.

Four large discs at the top of the tower indicate that the bar is workable and one of these is lowered by a winch when the sea is too rough for a safe crossing. At night a red light is exhibited when the bar is unsafe. The signalman watches the movements of each approaching vessel closely and operates two semaphore arms to guide its entrance. Other duties include the lighting of two beacons at dusk each night to provide the initial direction for ships coming into the harbour.

What's On

GALA DAY
SAT. 10th NOVEMBER
DON'T MISS IT!

MUSEUM A.G.M.
29th NOVEMBER
NINE & CHEESE